

The quoted portion of the reference states that the "venturi is preferably located in the pipe loop as near to the pump discharge as practicable".

The above-quoted words mean that the venturi should be connected close to the discharge end, i.e. the output end, of the pump. They do not say, or imply, that the pump is used for discharge only. The term "pump discharge" means the outlet end, i.e. the discharge end, of the pump.

Indeed, the reference makes clear that pump 12 draws some of the fermentation medium out of the vessel, and conveys it upward, mixing it with oxygen injected through line 13, and returning the mixture to the vessel through line 16. Moreover, there is no basis for inferring that any fluid passes from left to right in line 13. The flow in line 13 is entirely from right to left.

Claims 1 and 3-6 negate the presence of a pump, because they require that the stream of pure oxygen be moved through the vessel solely due to pressure in the oxygen supply. As explained in the previous Amendment, this means that there is no pump. Claim 25 explicitly recites that there is no compressor or blower. Thus, these claims all distinguish patentably over the reference.

Claim 26 requires that the injection of pure oxygen is performed without mixing the oxygen with a liquid. This feature also contradicts the reference, which shows oxygen from line 13 mixing with the liquid that is withdrawn from the vessel by pump 12, before entering the vessel. Claim 26 therefore also distinguishes patentably over the reference.

During the interview, Mr. Naff asked the undersigned about the significance of element 8 in Figure 1 of the reference. The undersigned explained that pipe 7a introduces air and/or an inert gas, and thus this

pipe does not introduce substantially pure oxygen into the vessel. Thus, elements 7a and 8 are not relevant to the present claims. The only conduit which conveys pure oxygen is line 13.

For the reasons given above, and in the previous Amendments, Applicant submits that the claims are allowable over the reference. Applicant requests reconsideration and early favorable action. If the Examiner has questions, Applicant requests that she telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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